

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Eleventh General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

MAY 8, 9, 10, 1805,

THE REV. E. WILLIAMS, D. D. ROTHERHAM;

REV. W. NICOL, LONDON;

REV. JOS. SLATTERIE, CHATHAM;

REV. T. THOMASON, A. M.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

London :

PRINTED FOR WILLIAMS AND SMITH, STATIONERS'-
COURT, LUDGATE-STREET.

By Biggs and Co. Crane Court, Fleet-street.

fellow men, long immersed in vice, error, and superstition, and for whose conversion few attempts have hitherto been made. For some time past, the miserable condition of these nations, and particularly of those whose commercial connection with this country affords a strong claim to our regard, has seriously occupied the minds of the Directors. Their efforts have consequently been principally directed to the eastern and western coasts of the great peninsula of India, and to the important island of Ceylon, nearly connected with it.

The Society is already acquainted with the steps which have been taken as to the island last mentioned. The Rev. Mr. Vos, a veteran in the service of the Redeemer, and formerly a faithful minister in South Africa, near the Cape of Good Hope, superintends this Mission. The German brethren, Ehrhardt and Palm, accompany him on this embassy. Together with these, the reveren brethren Ringletaube, Desgranges, and Cran, have sailed for Tranquebar; these are intended to labour on the continent of India, where the providence of God, after they have received the best advice from our Danish brethren at Tranquebar, may direct them to settle, in the most eligible and promising spot. Unexpected delays, not uncommon however in all shipping concerns, protracted their stay in Europe till the 20th of April, 1804, when they sailed in the Danish ship King's Packet from Copenhagen.

The goodness of God in preserving their lives, when just leaving the coast of Denmark, must be mentioned with peculiar gratitude. The vessel was at anchor about three miles from the shore, and the brethren were proceeding to join it in a boat. When they had proceeded about three-fourths of the way, the boat became leaky, and the water rushed in so fast, that they soon found themselves in the most imminent danger. In this emergency, Mr. Voss having, happily, a tin vessel
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with him, they successfully employed it in baling out the water; by which means they kept themselves up, till the people on board the ship, perceiving their perilous situation, sent out their own boat, and took them safely on board. The Directors had the pleasure of finding by the Cape Gazette, dated 11th August, 1804, that the ship had arrived safely at the Cape on its way; but no information has yet been received of their arrival in India.

Another Mission, of great importance, has been determined upon since our last General Meeting. A Memoir having been presented by one of the Directors, who has been repeatedly in India, recommending to their attention the populous city of Surat, on the northern part of the eastern coast of India, above Bombay, the Directors were so fully convinced of the eligibility of this station, that they immediately and with great satisfaction determined on a Mission to that place.

Surat is said to contain more than an hundred thousand inhabitants, to whose religious instruction no suitable attention has hitherto been paid. Its situation and commercial connections appear to render it peculiarly favorable for the introduction of the gospel. Religions of various descriptions are fully tolerated, affording free access to the Heathen, while there is every reason to expect the protection of the *Government*. Many of the inhabitants being acquainted with the English language, the Missionaries may probably enter upon their labours immediately, so that no delay will be suffered while they are acquiring the prevailing language of the country. It was a further inducement to undertake a mission to Surat, that should the gospel be succeeded by the blessing of God in this place, it may probably be from thence extended through all the North-Western parts of India, Cabul, Candahar, Persia, and Arabia.

One of the Missionary students, who had been
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for several years under the care of the Society, first at Edinburgh, and afterwards at Gosport, appeared to the Directors a suitable person to be employed in this important service, namely, Mr. Taylor, who having acquired a considerable share of medical knowledge, has regularly obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine. This qualification it is hoped, may prove of essential advantage in recommending him at Surat. Dr. Taylor is accompanied in this service by another student from Gosport, Mr. Loveless, whose piety and temper pointed him out as well adapted to the same station. These brethren, after having been solemnly set apart to the work, sailed in an American vessel, the *Allegany*, Capt. —, for Tranquebar, in December last. After a short stay on that coast, and availing themselves of the advice of the Danish brethren at Tranquebar, and if opportunity offers, of that also of the Baptist brethren at Serampore, they are to proceed to the place of their destination.

The Directors conceive they have been discharging a duty of the first importance, in the preparation of these Missions. The objects presented to the view of the Society in Ceylon, and on the two opposite coasts of India, are in their view, of the first magnitude; and such as will they trust be favored with the approbation, and with the earnest prayers of the whole Society, and of the religious public at large. The fields so widely extended, and, in great part, so long unoccupied, promise, they trust, a glorious harvest. In this hope, they are encouraged by the success with which it has pleased God to favor Missionary efforts already made in these populous regions, not only by the Baptist brethren from England, but by the various other labourers for a long season. On this head the Directors derived much satisfaction, from a letter received from some venerable Danish Ministers of the gospel at Tranquebar, in which they

they favored us with some account of their mode of proceeding, and of the blessing which the gospel has been made to thousands of souls. They invite and encourage our further exertions, and express a pious wish that persons of influence were duly sensible of the great advantage which the gospel, if suitably supported, would prove to the whole country. "If," say they, "the European Governors and Rulers of the country could be persuaded that true Christianity would render them still greater and happier than they are, and what a blessed influence the propagation of it would have on the general welfare of the nations which they govern, and especially if they would countenance it by their own example and influence—there is no doubt that the different nations would soon submit to the easy yoke of Christ, and shake off the miserable burden of heathenish superstition, vice, and vanity." What Christian does not cordially unite in a sentiment so just and benevolent! May He, who has all hearts in his hands, so dispose the minds of men of eminence in wealth and influence!

CHINA.

The Directors now proceed to a subject which has for a considerable time engaged their attention, and which, as a Missionary undertaking, will probably be deemed of unequalled magnitude and importance,—they refer to a Resolution which they have formed of attempting a translation of the Holy Scriptures into the Chinese language, as a measure, preparatory to the introduction of a Mission to that Empire.

It is unnecessary in this Report to expatiate on this interesting topic. The immense population of China, and the deplorable darkness by which it is enveloped, are so generally known, that it may be reasonably expected that any well-formed

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FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Twelfth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MAY 10, 11, 12, 1806,

BY

THE REV. T. CHARLES, A. B. BALA.

REV. S. BRADLEY, MANCHESTER.

REV. D. BOGUE, A. M. GOSPORT.

REV. R. WHITTINGHAM, CURATE, EVERTON.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. WILLIAMS, STATIONERS'-COURT,
LUDGATE-STREET.

By S. Hollingsworth, Crane-court, Fleet-street.

1806.

the gracious auspices of their great Master. The incidents which occurred during their voyage, and after their arrival are too numerous to be detailed in the limits to which they must confine themselves on this occasion; but they will be found in the publications of the transactions of the Society, and will afford much satisfaction to those who may peruse them. The Brethren Ringletaube, Cran, and Desgranges, and Messrs. Vos and Ehrhardt proceeded to Tranquebar in the same vessel. Not very long after their arrival, the Brethren Taylor and Loveless reached Madras; and it has since been ascertained, that Mr. and Mrs. Palm have joined Mr. Vos, and his associates at Ceylon. Of these three Missions, we now proceed to speak, beginning with that of Messrs. Ringletaube, Cran and Desgranges.

These Brethren arrived at Tranquebar early in Dec. 1804, and were received by several christian friends there with great cordiality. Their anxieties were relieved by the information given them of the encouraging prospects in India, and like St. Paul after his communications with certain Christian Brethren, when on his journey to Rome, they also "thanked God, and took courage."

In the instructions given to them by the Directors, they were recommended to form one Missionary station only, and to act together. They were not however so entirely limited to this point, as to be deprived of the privilege of judging, and determining otherwise, if it should appear to them necessary, in order to promote more extensively the interests of the great cause committed to their hands. After much deliberation and prayer, the Brethren Cran and Desgranges were inclined for various reasons to remove to Madras, with which their colleague acquiesced, and about the 5th March, these Friends separated, after having sealed their mutual love in that ordinance which

which is alike the pledge of union to the adorable Head of the Church, and to each other in him.

On their arrival at Madras, they were welcomed in the most affectionate manner, by different gentlemen; some in the sacred profession, and others who fill respectable stations in civil society. From these they derived considerable information, as well as countenance and assistance in their work; and as it appeared to them, in the first instance, probable, that they would pitch their Missionary tents in some part of the interior, where the Tamulean language was spoken, they applied themselves with unwearied assiduity to its acquisition, and made therein considerable progress. On further investigation however, they were induced to fix upon a station, in the Northern Circars, altogether unoccupied by preceding Missionaries; and the Directors are of opinion that the reasons which they state, justify them in adopting this measure. A second time, therefore, they were called to the painful task of separating from friends, who had manifested towards them every sentiment of kindness and affection which binds the heart in the cords of gratitude and love.

On the 13th July, Mr. Cran thus expresses himself, in a letter to a friend in the direction of this Society.—“With the Bible in our hands full of promises; with the permission of the Honourable the Governor in Council; and with a number of introductory letters from gentlemen of the first respectability in Madras, my dear Brother Desgranges, and I are just going to embark for Visigapatnam” In a few days they arrived at that place; and here the pillar of cloud and of fire, which had so long, and so graciously directed their wanderings, appears likely for some time to rest.

Visigapatnam is situated on the coast, in one of the Northern Circars; where the sea breezes render
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FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Thirteenth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

MAY 13, 14, 15, 1807,

BY

THE REV. SAMUEL NEWTON, WITHAM ;

REV. ROBERT JACK, MANCHESTER ;

REV. JOHN GRIFFIN, PORTSEA ;

REV. HENRY DRAPER, D. D. LONDON.

ALSO

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AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:

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LUDGATE-STREET,

By S. Hollingsworth, Crane-court, Fleet-street.

1807.

“ attention ; they claim your pity ; they call on you for aid ;
 “ yes, they *call* on you by their *sighs* and *groans*, under the
 “ galling yoke of superstition, to send forth labourers to di-
 “ rect them to Him whose yoke is easy and whose burden is
 “ light. Hence, send over ! come over ! and help us !” *

These ardent desires of our beloved brethren, we have been enabled to comply with, so far as to send forth two brethren, Messrs. Gordon and Lee, who, with their wives, embarked for India, by way of New York, in the beginning of this year, and may, in all probability, reach Vizigapatnam in the course of September or October next.

In our last Report, it was mentioned that Mr. Ringletaube, who had resided chiefly at Tranquebar, in order to attain a competent knowledge of the Tamoul language, had, after much deliberation, and earnest prayer for divine guidance, concluded to go to the kingdom of Travancore, and the Tinnevely country, forming the south-western extremity of the peninsula ; with a view to help the destitute congregations of nominal Christians in that territory, as well as to attempt to diffuse the knowledge of salvation among their heathen neighbours.

The substance of his letters and journals has appeared in the periodical accounts ; and the Directors, in consequence

* “ We want more labourers to engage in the work. Did we not
 “ solicit the same in every epistle, certainly the cry of this people’s
 “ blood would rise to God against us. Seeing such numbers of our fel-
 “ low-creatures scattered abroad, as sheep without a shepherd, cannot
 “ but fill our hearts with the deepest compassion. Their situation calls
 “ for tears of blood ! O that the blood of our Blessed Saviour, which he
 “ sweat in Gethsemane, and shed on Calvary, for sinners, may be
 “ sprinkled upon them to cleanse them from all sin, and purify them to
 “ God, a peculiar people, zealous of good works !

“ But, “ How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed ?
 “ and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard ? and
 “ how shall they hear without a preacher ?” &c. &c. We fully expect,
 “ before this year is out, to embrace some of the brethren whom our
 “ sanguine hopes lead us to think are now on their way to India.”

of his statement of the opening for Missionary labours which appeared in the Tinevelly country, authorized him to engage Mr. Wheatly as an assistant, of whom he had spoken highly, and some catechists, as he might see a fair prospect of doing good in that district. His most recent advices, dated at Palamcotta, in September last, furnish useful information, as well as much encouragement to the Society to proceed, with unabated zeal, in the more vigorous prosecution of Missionary objects in those countries, which are under the dominion, or in the closest alliance with, and dependence on, the British Government.

For the last six months, he had been preaching Christ to multitudes in an Indian tongue; had travelled upwards of a thousand miles, from congregation to congregation; and baptized many adults, besides the children of professing parents; made a journey through Travancore and Cochin; and with much difficulty obtained, through the help of an English officer of rank, permission from the king of Travancore, to introduce christianity into his capital and dominions. He had two young men under him, whom he was training for preaching the Gospel, with the most pleasing prospects of their future usefulness; and, upon the whole, he writes that "he had reason to bless the Lord of the harvest that he had graciously owned his feeble labours." He proposes to the Society to build a church, with a dwelling house at Travancore, the expense of which he estimates at only 100*l.* so plentiful are materials, and so cheap is labour in that country; and to institute a Seminary for twelve youths to be instructed and employed when fitted for the work: the annual expense of each he states at 18 star-pagodas, in all, 216, equal to 82*l.* per annum; and he seems to think this a preferable plan to having Missionaries from Germany, on account of the time and expense incurred by the latter, before they can engage in Missionary labours in the native languages.

He conceives the wild places and districts he has traversed, afford more promising fields of Missionary labour, than the
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large towns in which many Europeans reside, as their example is baneful, while the idolatrous superstitions of the natives are more powerfully established, and strengthened also, by the vicious lives of those who are Christians only in name. *

Our

* His first visit was at Tuttacoryn, a considerable town on the coast of Tinevelley, about 150 miles south of Tranquebar, from whence he had come in a boat.

"Going ashore at this place, I introduced myself as a Missionary, and attended the Dutch church, a spacious building, where the Rev. Mr. Clewer read a good discourse to a few attentive hearers. Afterwards, the Tamoul Catechist, Rayappen, preached an animated sermon to a small congregation of Tamoulers and Portugueze: at the close I addressed them, inviting them in the afternoon to the old fort. At the appointed time I met them, to the number of forty or fifty, spake with them individually, and then addressed them, (for the first time, extempore, in Tamul,) on the words of St. Paul.—The Spirit beareth witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God. "I hope some impression was made—a Portugueze man and woman seemed to be subjects of saving grace."

From this place he came to Palamcotta, where are two churches, the one Roman, the other Protestant, and was kindly received, and preached both in English and Tamoul. Accompanied by an old Catechist from Tanjore, our brother proceeded to Patty-Nazareth, Jerusalem, Colley-segnapatnam, and Manapar, preaching Christ; at this place, Mr. Gratien, a godly man, who had encouraged him to this service, received him cordially. After visiting various other places, he returned to Palamcotta. Frequent excursions of this kind were made by him, in which he met with diversified incidents, some of an encouraging nature, and some otherwise.

With the same views, he travelled afterwards into the kingdom of Travancore, and visited colonel M——, a man of singular excellence of character, who is the resident chief at Cochin, and spent a happy season of Christian intercourse under his hospitable roof. He relates some very interesting particulars of the colony of *Jews* at this place, the only synagogue of that people in India; and also furnishes some curious information respecting the Syriac Christians, who are numerous on that part of the Malabar Coast.

After obtaining from this worthy officer a promise of his influence to procure from the King of Travancore an order for building a church

Our authority, sent him last year, will enable him, we hope, to commence his plan of establishing a Seminary; and we trust our next accounts will confirm our confidence in his talents, and exhibit the power and grace of God operating by him in the diffusion of the pure Gospel of Christ in those countries, which he has chosen as the scene of his Missionary labours.

The Directors will now intreat your attention to another important branch of the India Missions; namely, that which is destined to

SURAT.

In the last Report, it was mentioned that the Brother Loveless remained at Madras, while Dr. Taylor proceeded to Bengal, to visit the Baptist Brethren at Serampore, and obtain such information at Calcutta, as might be useful with regard to the languages, and other objects connected with the intended establishment of this Mission. The accounts received from these brethren come down to October last, when Dr.

at Magelandy, which the Divan, or prime minister of the King, has since granted, and still pursuing his proper work as an itinerant labourer, after a variety of incidents, and meeting here and there with some sincere Christians, he returned to Palamcotta in July; from whence he shortly after again set out, and visited repeatedly all the Missionary stations in the Tinevelley district, a circuit of above 400 English miles; endeavouring to rectify abuses, discharge unworthy and unqualified catechists, and to purify the professing church as far as in his power.

Our brother writes towards the conclusion of his Journal thus:
 “ Every thing in this country seems to draw to a favourable crisis; my
 “ two youths in a course of preparation for the ministry, promise well;
 “ when engaged with them my heart is at rest. I maintain them out of
 “ my allowance, and wish for nothing more ardently than to be enabled,
 “ by some means, to begin a more numerous Seminary. The Lord pre-
 “ serves my health in the midst of fatigue and vexation, keeps me from
 “ falling into gross sins, and has procured me here a field of usefulness,
 “ and an excellent opportunity of collecting information and experience
 “ towards the management of a great Missionary concern in these lands.”

Taylor

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Fourteenth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

MAY 11, 12, 13, 1808,

BY

THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, D. D. EDINBURGH;
REV. RICHARD PEARSALL ALLEN, EXETER;
REV. ROBERT WINTER, LONDON;
REV. JOHN MARTYN LONGMIRE, L. L. B.,
HARGRAVE.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

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LONDON:

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By Townsend and Omer, Crane Court, Fleet Street.

1808.

ASIA.

Since our last Annual Report of the few Missions we have been enabled to undertake to some parts of this, by far the most populous, quarter of the world, we have detailed to the Society and the public, in our 18th and 19th Numbers of Transactions, the substance of the intelligence which we have received from our brethren in the course of the past year.

Whilst we cannot but sincerely lament that spirit of opposition to Christian Missions, which is always provoked by the zealous promulgation of divine truth, and which has at length actively manifested itself both in India and in England, to the prejudice of Christian Missionaries, we take comfort in this grand and obvious truth, that all men and all events are under the incessant controul and direction of Infinite Wisdom and almighty Power; and we cleave more closely to those precious promises, which assure us that "no weapon formed against Zion shall ultimately prosper;" yea, that "every tongue rising in judgment against her shall be condemned;" and that "the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, shall eventually, though gradually, become so great a mountain as to *fill the whole earth.*" Thus we take encouragement to proceed in this great work; though we would adopt that prudent caution which the circumstances of the times and the aspects of Divine Providence seem to require. This opposition has also called forth many able champions in the cause of our Redeemer and his holy religion, who have demonstrated to the public, in a clear and masterly manner, the indispensable obligation of Britons and Christians, to diffuse the light of truth in India.

We have the satisfaction to report, that by the most recent accounts from the Missionaries Cran and Des Granges, and Ringeltaube and Loveless, they continued unmolested in their respective stations, diligently labouring in the work of the Lord; the two former had acquired so much knowledge of
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the Telinga language, as to make a beginning in the great work of translating the scriptures, and had commenced with the Gospel of St. Matthew, the two first chapters of which they have transmitted us, also Dr. Watts's first catechism, as specimens of their progress; they have also sent us the translation of a curious memoir, or history of a heathen temple, from the original Telinga into English. These brethren had above forty young persons under their care for instruction and education, and some of these boarded with them; and while they embrace every opportunity of conversing with adult heathen on the great doctrines of Christianity, they continued to preach with acceptance to the English and other Europeans at Vizagapatam.

The Missionary brethren Gordon and Lee, who have been detained in America in consequence of the differences between our government and that of the United States, are usefully employed at New York, until the termination of our political misunderstanding with that government, when they will readily find an opportunity of embarking for their ultimate destination in India.

Mr. Ringeltaube still continued labouring among the natives of Tinevelly and others in the southern part of the peninsula; chiefly those who have professed themselves Christians; being thereto requested by the brethren at Tranquebar, and encouraged by persons of consideration and influence in those districts; and although his accounts of those professors of Christianity are by no means so encouraging as we could wish, yet we rejoice in his fidelity and exertions, and cherish the hope that his labours will be wisely directed and prospered by the Great Head of the Christian Church, whom he earnestly desires to serve and glorify in the ministry of the Gospel.

Mr. Loveless continues to occupy a very important station in the Asylum at Madras, and preaches in the chapel in the Black Town. In mentioning this place, the Directors are constrained to *repeat their regret*, that no suitable and well-qualified

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Fifteenth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

May 10, 11, 12, 1809,

BY THE

REV. JAMES PEDDIE, EDINBURGH;

REV. JOHN CLAYTON, JUN. LONDON;

REV. JOSIAH R. RICHARDS, HULL;

REV. JOHN KING MARTYN, JUN. M.A.

PERTENHALL.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR WILLIAMS AND SMITH, STATIONERS'-COURT,
LUDGATE-STREET,

By Townsend, Powell, & Co. Crane-court, Fleet-street.

1809.

VIZAGAPATAM.

THE accounts which have been received from the Brethren Cran and Des Granges, during the last year, exhibit the same spirit of devotedness and diligence in their great work, which they have been enabled, through Divine Grace, to manifest heretofore. Their journals furnish pleasing proofs of their constant endeavours to enlighten the minds of the Heathen around them, by embracing every opportunity of conversing with them on the great principles of the Christian revelation; by the progress they make in translating the Evangelists into the Telinga language; and by their printing and circulating short catechisms, and other tracts. In these labours of love they were joined by Arandarayer, a Bandida Bramin, converted to Christ under very remarkable circumstances, the particulars of which were communicated to the public through the medium of the Evangelical Magazine for February last. This man's perfect knowledge of the Telinga will, no doubt, greatly assist the Brethren in the translation of the Scriptures—that primary and principal instrument in the hand of the Divine Spirit for the illumination and conversion of the nations.

These faithful Brethren continued also to preach in the Fort to the Europeans every Lord's-day; and to superintend and assist in the instruction of large schools, which they had raised for the native children; in which laudable undertaking they were supported and assisted by the subscriptions and donations of our affluent countrymen in the settlement, and countenanced by the Government.

TINEVELLY.

THE latest accounts from our Brother Ringeltaube are dated at Moodeloor, the end of August, 1807, by which it appears
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that he is constantly employed in visiting the small congregations of native professing Christians, scattered over a large tract of country, instructing and preaching among them, and embracing opportunities of speaking to the Heathen on the things which belong to the peace and welfare of their immortal souls. It has, however, been our wish that he should become more stationary, and rather concentrate his labours, for a time, in gathering and building up a spiritual church of Christ, in direct connexion with our Society, on one of the plans he has himself pointed out, and for which our worthy Brother's zeal and devotedness, and the proficiency he has made in the Tamul language, sufficiently qualify him. The Scriptures have long since been rendered into Tamul, and printed and circulated by the Brethren of the Danish Mission at Tranquebar; we hope, therefore, in a humble dependence on the Divine aid, that our Brother will accomplish this our desire, which we have fully intimated to him in our letters written during the last year.

NEGAPATAM.

FROM our worthy and beloved friend Vos, at Negapatam, we have letters dated in February of the past year. He had then been exercising his ministry for about four months with acceptance in the Dutch church at that populous place; and the people were so well pleased with him, that they requested him to stay and minister among them, provided the governor at Madras would appoint him to that station. After due deliberation, conceiving that the Lord might have work for him to do at that place, he consented; and we have since then had the satisfaction of being made acquainted with the compliance of Government with the request of the people. Thus our aged Brother, after enduring much for the cause of Christ, is peacefully settled, we trust, in a situation of great

importance

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT THE

Seventeenth General Meeting,

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

May 8, 9, 10, 1811,

BY THE

REV. E. PARSONS, LEEDS;

REV. JOSEPH JEFFERSON, BASINGSTOKE;

REV. JAMES STEVENS, KILWINNING;

REV. JOHN WILCOX, M.A. LONDON.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THOMAS WILLIAMS, STATIONERS'-COURT,
LUDGATE STREET.

1811.

says Mr. Pritchett, "about Rangoon is very pleasant, abounding with woods and groves, but the whole is in a wild state. The only effects to be perceived of human industry are the numberless praas, or temples, and images of Gaudma, which meet the eye in every direction, and cast a gloom over the mind, which the beauty of the country cannot remove. This is indeed one of the dark places of the earth, and full of the habitations of cruelty. O that the sun of righteousness may speedily arise, scatter this dreadful darkness, and shine into the hearts of the poor Burmans, that they may be turned from their dumb idols to serve the living God." The laws of the country are described as very sanguinary. A man had been executed in a terrible manner only for using a gilt chattra (a kind of parasol,) which is considered as a treasonable action in the common people. Two other men were executed with him for having accepted a bribe to screen him from punishment.

Mr. Pritchett will, we hope, in due time, proceed to Ava, the capital of the country, where, by acquiring the knowledge of the language, in the speediest and most advantageous manner, he will be better qualified to effect the great object of his mission, by translating the sacred Scriptures, and preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to the perishing heathen. When the Directors shall have received from their now solitary Missionary a more particular account of his situation, and of the necessity of his receiving additional aid, they hope to be provided with the means of furnishing him with such assistance as he has been deprived of by the death of his colleague.

OODAGHERRY, IN TRAVANCORE.

THE last accounts from our Brother Ringeltaube were dated from this place, where he is now gone to reside. Owing to a complication of distressing events, in consequence of the war in

Travancore, particularly by a treacherous assault upon the British troops, in which the Travancoreans were at length happily defeated, he had been detained a considerable time, nearly inactive at Palamcotta. He, however, continued to carry on divine service in both languages, and to apply himself to the study of the Tamoul. Peace having been at length restored, he had resumed his itinerant labours. He specifies six places as his principal stations, where he is assisted by native catechists. His journal contains an account of his having baptized between two and three hundred, and that there were many more candidates for baptism. At some of these stations he had built and opened places of worship, and in others ground and timber had been purchased for the purpose.

At Auticada, he writes, that on the 7th October, after preaching to a considerable number under a mango tree, he baptized an old man from Covilvilley of ninety-seven years of age, whom he called the Patriarch Jacob, who, leaning on two of his sons, shed tears of joy for their conversion as well as his own, as they were baptized at the same time with himself. But a more interesting figure, if possible, in this groupe, was a schoolmaster crippled in both legs by a fall from a tree, who had been brought ten miles on men's shoulders to hear the word. 'Since,' said he, 'I lost the use of my legs, I have nothing but heaven in view.' After preaching on the latter part of the second chapter of the first Epistle of Peter, adds our brother, "I took occasion to exhort the people to be obedient to their masters, and particularly to the magistrates, and to wave all views of temporal advantage by professing Christianity, and not to imagine they would be exempt from the cross, or discharged from the obligation of their relative duties."

CEYLON.

IN our last annual report we noticed the lively interest which the deplorable condition of the native Cingalese had excited in

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT

The Eighteenth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

MAY 13, 14, 15, 1812,

BY THE

REV. MATTHEW WILKS, LONDON;

REV. JOHN LOVE, ANDERSTON;

REV. ALEXANDER STEILL, WIGAN;

REV. EARLE GILLBEE, D. D. BARBY.

ALSO

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR WILLIAMS AND SON, STATIONERS' COURT,
LUDGATE STREET,

By J. Dennett, Leather Lane, Holborn.

1812.

to be well satisfied with his prudence and industry, and to hope that the mission he has commenced will prove a great blessing to that part of India, especially when strengthened by the arrival of another Missionary. We hope that his solitary labours have by this time been relieved by a suitable associate in Mr. Thompson.

From Mr. Ringeltaube in TRAVANCORE, the Directors have recently received a journal, stating that he continues to labour at six or seven places, where he has built several small churches. In the progress of his Missionary work, he has distributed, with good effect, copies of the Scriptures in the Portuguese and Tamul languages, with which he was generously supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society; he has also baptized more than four hundred persons, including children, and might have baptized many more adult persons, who were candidates for that ordinance, had he not suspected that more than a few of them had only worldly advantages in view. Mr. Ringeltaube deserves much commendation for constantly insisting upon it, that converts to Christianity are liable to the same public services and burdens as before; a doctrine not very palatable to an idle and deceitful people. Mr. Ringeltaube certainly struggles with many difficulties, but the Directors cannot but conclude that his labours are serviceable, in the highest sense, to various individuals, and contribute to diffuse the knowledge and influence of Christianity among the natives.

Mr. Forsyth, who went out to CALCUTTA in the year 1798, under the patronage of this Society, informs the Directors, by a letter just come to hand, that he continues to preach every Sunday at Chinsurah, where he resides, and also at Calcutta, where, he says, "the Lord has been pleased to provide for us a large house, which is open to all the servants of Christ, whom he may be pleased to send."* He adds, "There is great need of many labourers in this place, as well as in the neighbouring settlements, Dutch, French, and Portuguese; in Chinsurah, Chandernagore, and Bandell." Ministers are so much wanted, that he expresses an earnest desire that more preachers from England or Scotland may be sent forth to assist him in that most populous part of the country; Calcutta alone being said to contain a million of souls. The Directors feeling it to be an im-

* This chapel is 70 feet in length, by 32, with a veranda 25 feet in width, extending the whole length. In the proposals printed at the time of its erection, we were happy to perceive the following liberal regulation. "As the sole object in view on this occasion is the promotion of true religion, it is not intended that this chapel shall be exclusively used by any particular denomination of Christians *but be open to ALL*; that different Ministers of the Gospel may preach and administer the ordinances according to their own ideas of gospel institutions."

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT THE

NINETEENTH GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

May 12, 13, 14, 1813,

BY THE

REV. DAVID PETER, CARMARTHEN.

REV. JOHN PHILIP, ABERDEEN.

REV. ALEX. FLETCHER, LONDON.

REV. B. W. MATHIAS, A.M. DUBLIN.

—
ALSO

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the members and friends of this Society, as well as their fellow Christians of various denominations, have manifested the same pious zeal by their petitions to Parliament for the same purpose.

Leaving to the disposal and control of the Great Head of the Church those legislative proceedings which may affect the future progress of India Missions, the Directors will give a general statement of what has been attempted by their Missionaries in that country during the past year, lamenting however, that some expected dispatches not having yet arrived, they cannot present intelligence of so late a date as might be wished.

TRAVANCORE.

From Mr. Ringeltaube they have heard but little; but it appears that he continues to labour in six or seven different places in the district of Travancore, in churches which he has erected, and where he statedly preaches the Gospel and administers Christian ordinances; he also employs five or six native schoolmasters for the instruction of youth; he has likewise several boys in training, who assist him in reading, writing and singing, one of whom always accompanies him on his preaching excursions; they are also occasionally sent into the villages, among the scattered proselytes, to teach them the catechism. He speaks particularly of a Mr. Fleury, who has proved the most useful of all his assistants. The labours of these schoolmasters are, Mr. Ringeltaube states, of great advantage to the rising generation, not only as to their respectability and temporal prosperity, but as conducive to their spiritual good; "for," he observes, "it is in vain to print and distribute bibles, if there are none who can read them." The expense, however, of these operations has been heavier than before, on account of a great scarcity of grain occasioned by a long drought felt all over the south of the peninsula.

VIZAGAPATAM.

THE affairs of this important station are, we trust, in a prosperous state. Mr. Pritchett, who, after the death of Mr. Brain, found it necessary to leave the Burman country, has joined his brethren in India. After being long detained at Calcutta, and under circumstances at times difficult and distressing, he was at length enabled to reach Vizagapatam, and unite with the Brethren Gordon and Lee, who greatly needed his assistance, in consequence of the loss they had sustained by the death of the excellent Des Granges.

These Missionaries inform us that the gospels of Matthew,

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT THE

Twentieth General Meeting

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

May 11, 12, 13, 1814,

BY THE

REV. CH. FR. A. STEINKOPFF, M.A. LONDON.

REV. THOMAS RAFFLES, LIVERPOOL.

REV. D. M'INDOE, M.A. NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

REV. WILLIAM GURNEY, M.A. LONDON.

ALSO

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AND J. NISBET, CASTLE STREET, OXFORD STREET.

and present appearances produce such hopes as repel the force of the insinuations of many, that our views are chimerical."

Their visits to the native schools sometimes afford a high degree of pleasure. When they entered one of these, they found a number of children, repeating aloud the first chapter of St. Luke's gospel, which they had begun to transcribe upon their Palmyra leaves. Thus they perceived copies of the word of God quickly multiplied, and that by the hands of the heathen themselves. "O that this practice," say they, "might be universally adopted:" in this pious wish we must all cordially unite, and should the establishment of schools in India be rendered, as we hope it will be, more general, this method will we trust be diligently observed.

GANJAM.

MR. LEE, who was at Vizagapatam, has removed, with the consent of his brethren and at the invitation of some friends of religion, to Ganjam, a populous town on the coast. Here he is surrounded, not only by a vast body of the natives, but also by a multitude of Portuguese and country-born people. When we last heard from him he was about to open a school for children of the latter description, and another for the natives, in which he would teach both English and Gentoo, and thereby have an opportunity of introducing and explaining the doctrines of the gospel. The attendance of Europeans and others on public worship is encouraging. About one hundred persons attend twice on the Lord's-day and hear the word with seriousness, and he hopes with good effect. In the morning he reads the church service before the sermon. He wishes that more Missionaries may be sent to assist him.

TRAVANCORE.

MR. RINGELTAUBE still resides at Magilady, near Oodagherry, in Travancore, and continues his labours at several village churches in that neighbourhood. In the summer of 1812, he took a journey to the eastward, and at Negapatam was happy to meet with some of the fruits of Mr. Voss's ministry at that place. His successor has a flourishing

school there. At Tranquebar he had a dangerous illness, from which, however, he was happily restored. In the month of October he reached his usual residence, and resumed his labours. He visits twice a month his several congregations, and every evening addresses as many as are willing to attend. In some of these places, the people are irregular in their attendance, but at Ectamoly and Auticada they attend much better; at the latter place he thinks of enlarging the church. Pittalow and Covilvilly appear stationary; but a new congregation has sprung up at Ananda-nadan-cudi-yirappa, where the people have erected a small church; upon the whole, there has been an increase in number; one hundred and forty-six have been baptized since he last wrote. The number of church-members is about six hundred and seventy-seven. About sixty children are in the schools under his direction.

The Directors intend, if possible, to strengthen the hands of Mr. Ringeltaube, by sending another Missionary to labour with him (in addition to the Catechists he already employs), as they conceive there are many people in that quarter disposed to listen to the truth.

We are sorry to learn from Mr. Ringeltaube's journal that many of the Syrian priests in that neighbourhood are inclined to the Church of Rome, and more than a few congregations have joined it.

BELHARY.

SINCE our last Report, we have learned that Mr. Hands, at Belhary, had been alarmingly ill with the liver complaint; he was, however, mercifully recovered, and after a journey to Vizagapatam and to Madras (to which he was advised), returned to his station and resumed his labours, assisted by Mr. Taylor, a native of Madras and one of the fruits of his ministry there; and who, on his recommendation, has been received as a Missionary under the patronage of this Society.

On his long journey from Belhary to Vizagapatam (more than five hundred miles), wherever he halted, he usually endeavoured to publish among those who knew the Canara language, the truth of the gospel, which in general the people

FOUR SERMONS,

PREACHED IN LONDON,

AT THE

TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL MEETING

OF

The Missionary Society,

May 10, 11, 12, 1815,

BY THE

REV. ANGUS M'INTOSH, A. M. TAIN.

REV. JAMES BODEN, SHEFFIELD.

REV. JOHN HYATT, LONDON.

REV. M. R. WHISH, A. M. BRISTOL.

ALSO

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T. D. CLARKE, ST. MICHAEL'S HILL, BRISTOL; M. RICHARDSON, MANCHESTER;

OLIPHANT, WAUGH, AND INNES, HUNTER SQUARE, EDINBURGH;

AND LA GRANGE, NASSAU STREET, DUBLIN.

1815.